Washington Street, old and new

Edwin Monroe Bacon

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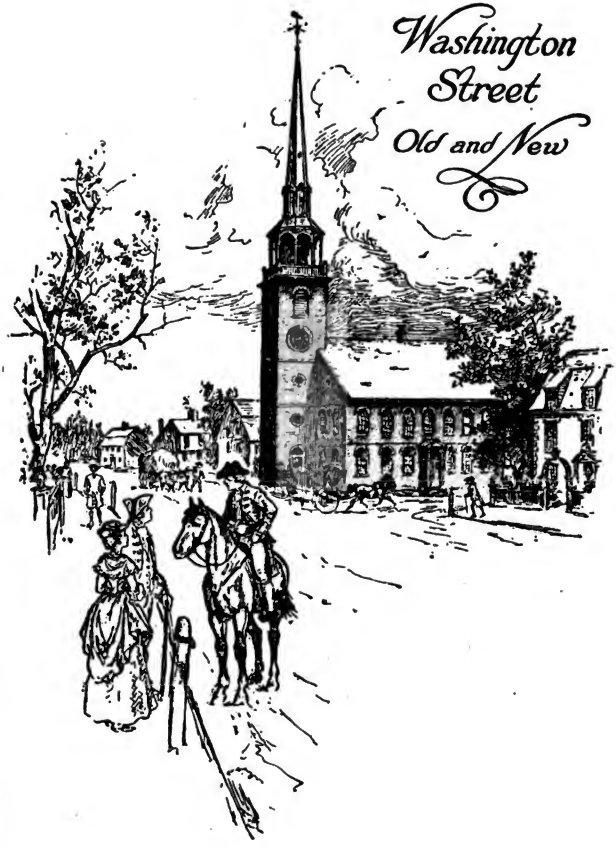

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Washington Street Old and New

A History in Narrative Form of the Changes Which this Ancient Street has Undergone since the Settlement of Boston.

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MACULLAR PARKER COMPANY, PRESENT LOCATION, 398-400 WASHINGTON STREET

OF all the old streets of New England there is none which can boast of a more notable history than Washington Street, and no part of the present long thoroughfare is more interesting in this respect than the short section, or link, between School and Milk Streets and Summer and Winter Streets, known through Colony and Province days and till long after the Revolution as Marlborough Street, of which this little book especially treats.

The story of this street is the story of Boston's first thoroughfare and begins with the beginnings of Boston. As the first "High Waye towards Roxburie," then the only avenue to the mainland, composed of the first twisting roads and paths struck out in succession through

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the length of the originally "pear-shaped" peninsula and over its slender stem — the mile-long, tide-washed Neck,— this thoroughfare was distinctively the first Boston Main Street.

At the outset the highway was but the germ of a thoroughfare; and for more than thirty years from the town's start it extended no further than to the present Boylston Street line. Beyond that line, or above Essex Street, there was during this time only a footpath or rough cartway "towards Roxburie." And after further extension was effected Boylston Street yet remained practically the thoroughfare's terminus with respect to its occupation by shops, taverns, dwellings, and mansion houses, throughout the Colony period and for the greater part of the Province period. Beyond Boylston Street there were few houses upon it and fewer shops till after the Revolution. Above Dover Street there were before the Revolution very few inhabitants; and so late as 1800 only one or two houses were counted from the site of the present Cathedral of the Holy Cross to Roxbury.

CORNER SPRING LANE AND WASHINGTON STREET IN 1870

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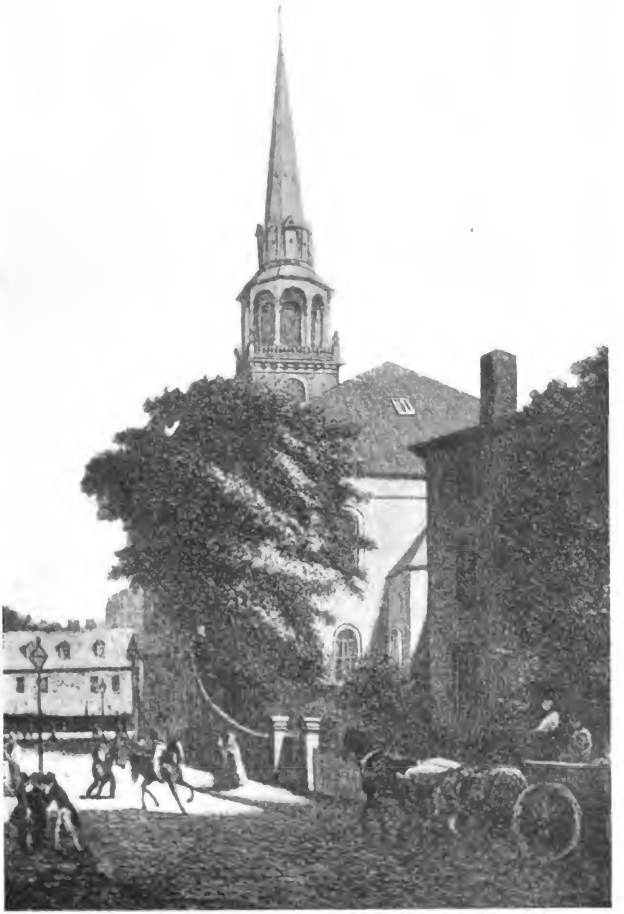

THE OLD SOUTH CHURCH IN COLONIAL DAYS, FROM AN OLD LITHOGRAPH

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THE OLD STATE HOUSE IN 1796

The first link, which was marked out with the town's initial streetways and lanes, comprises the bow between the present Adams Square and School Street. This led from the Town Dock, at Dock Square, around by the town's first central point, where were the "sawepitte" for turning out the logs for the first houses, the first marketplace, the first stocks and whipping post, and later the first Town-House, now marked by the Old State House; and thence to the house-lots and gardens of first settlers southward. The second link, shortly added, extended from School to Summer Street, then "The Mylne Street," or "Mill Lane," leading to "Widow Tuthill's Windmill" (she the relict of Richard Tuttle, miller, succeeding to his business) which stood near the point that became the "Church Green" of after days, at the present junction of Summer and Bedford Streets. The third link was an early extension to Boylston Street, at that time "Frogg Lane" running alongside the Common toward the Back Bay, which then made up to the present Park Square. At the end of this third link connection was made with the first path to Roxbury, a rough beach road, which ran from near the Essex Street corner along the South Cove beach. The South Cove then stretched westerly to within a short distance of the present line of Washington Street near Essex Street, and north of Beach Street, which originally was a beach; and here, turning southward, it ran parallel with the Washington-Street line up to the line of the present Dover Street and beyond, a strip of

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THE OLD SOUTH CHURCH AS IT APPEARS TODAY

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WASHINGTON STREET, LOOKING NORTH FROM TEMPLE PLACE

land intervening between the water and road wide enough only to provide a single houselot in depth. On the west side the Back Bay turned toward the Washington Street line at about where Pleasant Street enters, and swept close to this line at Dover Street.

These three links — from the Town Dock to Frog Lane — constituted the thoroughfare till 1663 or 1664, when the further extension beyond to Dover Street, or to the "Old Fortification," a little south of Dover Street, at practically then the town's end, was laid out. The "Old Fortification" was the remnant of a fort early built in place of the first barrier erected at this point as a defence against any sudden attack by Indians. It had two gates, one for teams, the other for foot passers. Regular watches and wards were maintained here, and the gates were closed at sundown.

Just outside the Fortification the Neck was at its narrowest. At this point was the inner Roxbury Gate also early set up. The outer Gate, "& Style next vnto Roxburie," was erected at the Roxbury line, marked now by a memorial stone in the thoroughfare. Between the two Gates were upland and swamp, the latter flowed by the tides. In early days the Neck was a perilous place, particularly in the rough seasons. Winthrop relates under date of March, 1639, how, "one of Roxbury" having sent to Boston "his servant maid for a

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CORNER WASHINGTON AND SUMMER STREETS LOOKING TOWARD THE COMMON
IN 1856

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barber chirurgeon to draw his tooth," maid and barber "lost their way in their passage between, during a violent snowstorm," and how they "were not found until many days after, and then the maid was found in one place, and the man in another both frozen to death." Nearly half a century later Judge Sewall recorded in his inimitable Diary: "Novr. 26 [1685]. Mary an Indian, James's Squaw, was Frozen to death upon the Neck near Roxbury Gate on Thorsday night Novr 27th, '85, being fudled."

The connecting Neck roads were earliest maintained by individuals having grants from the Neck Commons conditioned upon such maintenance; or earlier paid for such service. The connecting highway on the Roxbury side is recorded as laid out between the Boston line and Roxbury Street in 1662. Before that it apparently was a rough cartway.

Our thoroughfare was variously designated through the Colony period,— "The High Waye towards Roxburie," "The High Street," "The Broad Way," "The Town High Way to Roxbury," "The Broad Street," "The Great Road Leading to Roxbury,"— and its several links were without official names till well into the second decade of the Province period. In fact, none of the streets, lanes, or alleys of the town, though generally informally named, bore official names till the year 1708. Seven years earlier, September, 1701, the select-

CORNER OF WASHINGTON AND COURT STREETS, PRESENT SITE OF THE AMES BUILDING

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THE BEGINNING OF WASHINGTON STREET, LOOKING TOWARD DOCK SQUARE ABOUT 1860

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men were empowered by town-meeting vote to "assign and affix Names unto the Severall streets & Lanes within this Town, so as they shall judg meet and convenient," but the business was not completed till that time. In the list then adopted and caused to be recorded in the "Town Book," the thoroughfare's links are found thus defined and designated, reckoned in order from the southward — at the Old Fortification:

"The broad Street or Highway from ye Old Fortification on ye neck Leading into ye Town as far as the Corner of ye Late Deacon Eliots House..... *Orange Street.*

"The Street from ye corner of the House in ye Tenure of Capt Turfrey nigh Deacon Eliots Corner leading into Town by ye House of Samll Sewall Esqr as far as Doct Okes Corner..... *Newbery Street.*

"The *Broad* Street leading from Penemans Corner at ye head of Sumer Street passing by ye South Meeting House to Haughs Corner..... *Marlborough Street.*

"The Street from the Lower end of School Street Leading Northly as far as Mr Clark the Pewterers Shop..... *Corn Hill.*

The "Late Deacon Eliots House" was on the south corner of Boylston Street, "Frog Lane." He was Jacob Eliot, a founder of the South Church, and a large land holder. His estate on this corner comprised his house and large garden lot. This link had been laid out through his "Field" which spread southward from the present Eliot Street, and through "Coleburn's Field" which adjoined Eliot's, and the south bound of which was at the north side of the present Castle Street. "Coleburne" was Deacon William Coleborn, or Colborn, a neighbor of Eliot's and also a townsman of consequence. His house and garden were opposite Eliot's, on the north corner of Frog Lane. The site of Eliot's house at a later day was occupied by "Peggy Moore's" tavern, where the country farmers coming into town with their garden truck and other farm products were wont to stop. So sharp and keen was the countrymen's bartering here that the place came to be dubbed "Shaving Corner." Peggy Moore's successor was the more dignified Boylston Market, erected early in the nineteenth century. This, one of Bulfinch's notable designs in public buildings, and named for a generous member of the Boylston family — Ward Nicholas Boylston, the giver of Boylston Hall to Harvard College,— survived till it had attained the distinction of a venerated landmark, when it in turn succumbed to the destroyer, much lamented by old Bostonians, and made way for the present business block on this corner. The name of Orange selected for this link was, obviously, in honor of the house of Orange.

The "House in ye Tenure of Capt Turfrey" may have been at about the corner of Essex Street. The "House of Samll Sewall Esqr" was where is now the Jordan Marsh Company's main store, midway between Avon and Summer Streets. He was that rare personage in Colonial history, Judge Samuel Sewall, of the "witch-

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WASHINGTON STREET, FROM WATER STREET TO THE OLD SOUTH CHURCH IN 1857

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craft" court that condemned the "witches" of Salem, and the choicest of Boston diarists, whose Diary of intimate details of Boston life between the years 1674 and 1729 is to Boston what Pepys' was to London. In this house much of that Diary was written.

"Doct. Okes Corner" was the south corner of Summer Street. "Doct. Okes" was Dr. Thomas Oakes, a brother of the Rev. Urian Oakes, minister of Cambridge and president of Harvard College, 1631-81. He was a favorite practitioner, and Judge Sewall's family physician, frequently mentioned in the Diary. He was also a man of affairs. After the overthrow of Andros by the "bloodless revolution" of 1689, he was one of its two members which the General Court sent to England as agents of the colony with Rev. Increase Mather and Sir Henry Ashurst.

"Peneman's Corner at y^e^ head of Sumer Street" was the north corner. Summer Street appears to have been thus named at this time. At least it was called "Seven Star Lane" in place of the Mill Lane so late as 1704, for Sewall mentions it in his Diary at that time. The present official Record of Streets sets it down as Seven Star

WASHINGTON STREET, LOOKING NORTH FROM FRANKLIN STREET, IN 1872

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NEWSPAPER ROW, WASHINGTON STREET, IN 1870

Lane from 1758 to 1773. The name was taken from the Seven Star Inn which stood on the upper corner of Bishop's Lane, now Hawley Street, and was succeeded by the first Trinity Church erected in 1734-35, which, in 1828, made way for the second Trinity — that massive temple of rough-hewn granite and ponderous square front tower, which went down in the " Great Fire of 1872," its broken tower and partly crumbled walls presenting the most picturesque ruin of all in that costly conflagration. The " Peneman " at the Street's head was presumably James Peneman. In the Selectmen's Records, under date of March 6th, 1710-11, and again March 19th, " Doct. James Peneman " is named with others to be " Posted up as Tipplers." The bibulous gentleman and the corner occupant may have been one

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FIRST CHURCH OF BOSTON, SECOND LOCATION, ON SITE OF ROGERS BUILDING

and the same. A later record is more reputable: "[June 22, 1714]. Liberty is granted to James Peneman to sett two posts in y^e^ H. way before his House to range w^th^ M^r^ Marions posts Seven foot north ward of y^e^ corner of his House." Mr. Marion was Deacon John Marion, long a selectman. Penniman's Corner, Summer Street, is mentioned in the Town Records in 1735, in the town's ward divisions.

"Y^e^ South Meeting House" was the first South Church, the "little cedar meeting-house" erected in 1669-70 which the present brick Old South succeeded in 1729-30. This was the church in which Margaret Brewster, the Quaker, made that demonstration on a July Sunday of 1677 which Sewall thus describes: "In Sermon Time a Female Quaker slipt in covered with a Canvas Frock, having her hair dishevelled and Loose, and powdered with Ashes resembling a flaxen or white Periwigg, her face as black as Ink, being led by two Quakers and followed by two more. It occasioned a great and very amazing Uproar." And well it might. For Mistress Brewster thus arrayed in the Biblical "sackcloth and ashes," delivered to the startled congregation a solemn warning of the approach upon the town of a great calamity "called the black pox," as a punishment for the persecution of the Quakers; then slipt out with her companions as quietly as she had entered. Subsequently the unhappy woman was sentenced

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RUINS OF THE FIRE OF 1872 AT THE CORNER OF SUMMER AND WASHINGTON STREETS

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for this offence to be "whipt at the carts tail up and down the town with twenty lashes," and duly suffered the dreadful penalty. It was this Puritan meetinghouse that in 1686 Andros ordered opened Sunday forenoons to the first Episcopal Church which had been established in the Town-House, the Colonial council having refused the use of any of the meetinghouses; and upon one occasion, when the Church of England service extended into the afternoon reserved for the regular orthodox congregation, Judge Sewall chronicled the "sad sight" it was "to see how full the street was of people, gazing and moving to and fro because they had not entrance into the church." Here in 1688, on a winter's night, was performed the ceremonious burial service over Lady Andros, the governor's American wife, of which our diarist gives this vivid relation. "Friday, Feb. 10. 1687. . . . Between 7. and 8. (Lychors illuminating the cloudy air) The Corps was carried into the Herse drawn by Six Horses. The Souldiers making a Guard from the Governor's House down the Prison Lane [Court Street] to the South Meetinghouse, there taken out and carried in at the western dore, and set in the Alley before the pulpit, with Six Mourning Women by it. House made light with Candles and Torches. Was a great noise and clamor to keep people out of the House, that might not rush in too soon. . . . It seems Mr. Ratcliff's Text was, Cry, all flesh is Grass." It was here in 1697, five years after the Salem witchcraft frenzy, at the service on the Fast Day of "humiliation and penitence" for what had been amiss in the Colony's acts in that tragedy, that Judge Sewall humbly made his public declaration of contrition for his share, as a judge, in the shame, standing up in his pew as his "bill," which he had slipped into the minister's hand, was read from the pulpit, and "bowing when finished." And this was the little meetinghouse in which, in January, 1705–06, on the day of his birth, Benjamin Franklin was christened, the infant philosopher being brought across from his birthplace, the humble tenement that stood opposite the meetinghouse's side, and marked by the building No. 19 Milk Street.

"Haugh's Corner" was the south corner of School Street: so called from Atherton Hough, whose house and garden were first here. He had been an alderman in old Boston in England and had come out with the Rev. John Cotton.

The name of Marlborough was given this link in honor of the great English soldier.

"The Lower end of School Street," was the north corner marked by the Hutchinson lot, within which was first, from 1633 to 1637, the home of Mistress Anne Hutchinson the central figure in the fierce "Antinomian Controversy," resulting in her banishment, "for traducing the ministers and their ministry in the country," in holding to the "covenant of faith" as against a "covenant of works,"— and

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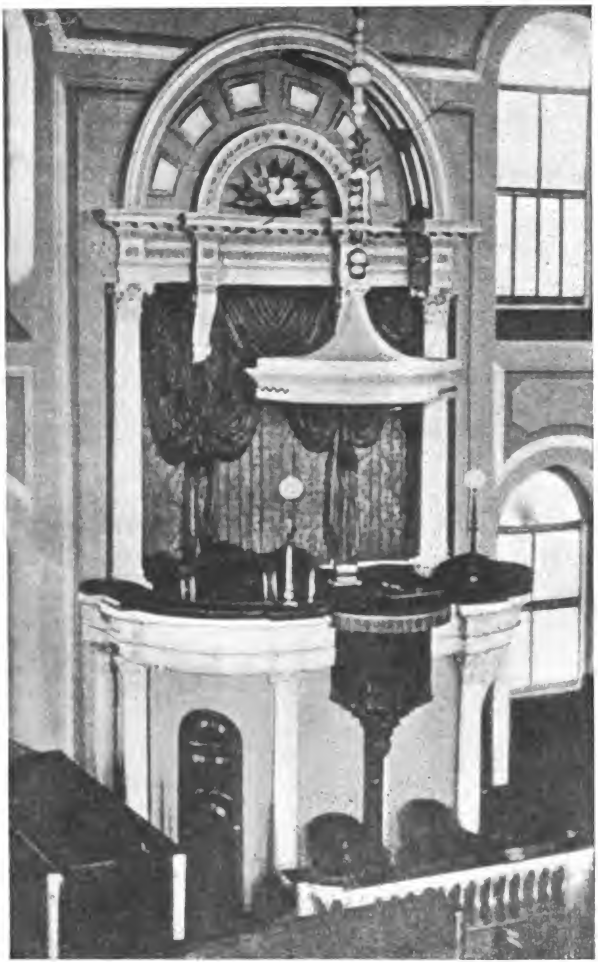

THE PULPIT OF THE OLD SOUTH CHURCH IN 1850

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WASHINGTON STREET, LOOKING SOUTH FROM WATER STREET, IN 1850, FROM AN ETCHING MADE AT THE TIME

the banishment of several others and the disarming and disfranchisement of many more, of her adherents. "Mr Clark the Pewterer" is unknown to fame. His shop was presumably at the head of the Town Dock.

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THE OLD CORNER BOOKSTORE, WASHINGTON AND SCHOOL STREETS, IN 1905

In the next publication of a list of streets, which was made in the "Vade Mecum in America, A Companion for Traders and Travellers," issued in 1732, "Peneman's Corner" became "Bethune's Corner"; and "M^r Clark the Pewterer^s Shop," "Colson's Stone Store." Colson's stood fronting Dock Square.

No further list of streets was published till after the Revolution. Then, in 1788, the selectmen issued a "Supplementary List," recording the names of "some new streets and the alterations made subsequently to the Revolution in the name of old ones"; and in this, with the changes of King to State Street, Queen to Court, and so on, the name of "Washington Street" makes its first appearance. It had been given that year — July 4th quite fittingly — to the Neck part of this thoroughfare: "From Orange Street at the Fortification to the Bounds of the Town at the Roxbury Line." The next year, 1789, it was properly dedicated when President Washington, upon his memorable visit to New England, made his stately entry into the town over it — after having been held up at the Roxbury line in the chilling

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LOOKING DOWN FROM MILK STREET, FROM WASHINGTON STREET AFTER THE GREAT FIRE OF 1872

air (it was late October) such an unconscionable time by an altercation between the Boston selectmen and Sheriff Henderson, representing Governor Hancock, over the control of the escorting procession, which ended with the sheriff's triumph only with his threat to " make a hole " through some of the town's officers, that many in the waiting crowd caught an influenza which local distemper long after was termed " the Washington cold."

The other links of the thoroughfare retained their Colonial names for thirty-five years longer. The next official list of streets issued in 1800 (no list appeared in the first Boston Directories issued respectively in 1789 and 1796), a print of Benjamin Edes & Son, leading printers of that day, showed these changes in the definition of the thoroughfare's bounds:

Orange Street — from " Deacon Brown's, where the Old Fortification stood, to Mr Morse's corner store head of Essex Street."
Newbury — " thence to Dr. Jarvis's Corner, at the turning to Trinity Church."
Marlborough — " to Brimmer's Corner at the bottom of School Street."
Cornhill — " to the Store of Mr. Tuckerman opposite Sam Elliot's."

From the latter point " round Faneuil Hall (including the late Town Dock) & back by S. Brazer's corner to King's Tavern," were the bounds of Dock and Market Squares.

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" Deacon Brown's" warehouse was where the William's Market House long stood, and is now a theatre. It was called the " Green Store " from the color adopted for its exterior. It was succeeded by the " Green Stores " of John D. Williams which made way for the William's Market. The British post was here at the time of the Siege. The Old Fortification in this case was that which Gage had strengthened. " Dr. Jarvis's Corner" was presumably Dr. Charles Jarvis's. In the Directory of 1789 " Jarvis buildings, Newbury Street " are named. " Brimmer's Corner " was the old Hutchinson estate corner, which Mr. Herman Brimmer had acquired in 1795, and was now marked by the present building, dating from 1712, which later became the famous " Old Corner Bookstore."

The old Colonial names were all finally discarded in 1824, and the name of Washington applied to the whole thoroughfare within the then Boston bounds. The next year it was given to the connecting parts in Roxbury. In subsequent years connecting outward highways received it, and the northern city end was extended, till ultimately Washington Street became the cross-state thoroughfare of today reaching from Haymarket Square through the length of Boston and towns beyond to Providence in Rhode Island.

The aspect of the Colonial thoroughfare — the three links that came to be Cornhill, Marlborough and Newbury Streets — may be pictured with accuracy in detail practically from the beginning.

THE LAMB TAVERN, LOCATED ON THE PRESENT SITE OF THE ADAMS HOUSE

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CORNER HARVARD PLACE AND WASHINGTON STREET IN 1856

Starting from the Town Dock, we have, in the Cornhill link, first, at the head of Dock Square, or about what is now the southeast corner of Adams Square, "The King's Arms" tavern, which flourished from 1650 or earlier into the Province period. At the turn of the thoroughfare from Dock Square, on the west side: the house, garden, and "close" of Captain William Tyng, brother of Edward Tyng, both possessors of large estates. East side, opposite the foot of the present Cornhill: the house, garden, and "housings," including two shops, of Major Edward Gibbons. One of the shops was occupied by Major Thomas Savage, tailor, he of Indian wars fame. Northwest corner of Court Street, the Ames building site: house and yard of the Rev. Henry Dunster, first president of Harvard College. He moved early to Cambridge. North east corner of State Street: house and shop of John Cogan. Cogan's was the first shop for merchandise opened in the town — in 1634. Thus he was the earliest Boston merchant, and this thoroughfare was the first shopping street. Cogan was a man of consequence in the community. He had other shops, and other estates. He married Governor Winthrop's widow—the governor's fourth wife,— who survived him, thrice widowed, for she

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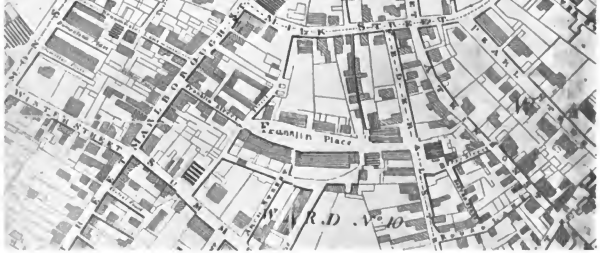
was a widow when married to the governor. West side: house and garden of John Leverett, later "the military governor," who had served in Cromwell's armies as a captain of horse through the whole Civil War. East side: the marketstead, from 1630, till the erection of the first Town and State House, in 1657–58. In course of time the Town House became surrounded by booksellers' shops. Southeast corner of State Street: house and garden of Major, after Captain, Robert Keayne, tailor, and merchant, who became the richest man in the town in his day; most distinguished as a founder and the leading charter member of the Honorable Artillery Company, as maker of the longest will on record, and as provider for the first Town-House. Public spirited as he was, he could not escape fine of the court and discipline of the church on charges of taking exorbitant profits in the sale of foreign commodities —"in some, above six-pence in the shilling profit, in some, above eight-pence." In the next century Daniel Henchman's bookstore long occupied this corner; and here, in the employ of Henchman's successors, Wharton & Bowers, General Harry Knox began his career as a booksellers' clerk. Early Knox set up his own establishment, the "New London Bookstore," on the same side of the thoroughfare, opposite Williams Court. West side, where is now Rogers Building: the second meetinghouse, built in 1640, after the first one was given up. At a later day, south of Court Avenue, "near the Old Meetinghouse" was Nicholas Boone's bookshop from which in 1704 was published *The Boston News Letter*, the first newspaper in America to be permanently established. Above the meetinghouse: house and garden of Major-General Robert Sedgwick. Nearly opposite the head of Water Street: Cole's "Ordinary," the first tavern in the town, 1634. Above, to the School Street corner: the Hutchinson house and



PLAN OF BOSTON IN 1800, SHOWING MARLBOROUGH (NOW WASHINGTON) STREET

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OLD STATE HOUSE IN 1805, SHOWING SECOND LOCATION OF FIRST CHURCH, WHERE THE ROGERS BUILDING NOW STANDS

garden lot. Again on the east side — where the Globe Building stands: house and garden of Richard Fairbanks; later, the "Blue Anchor Tavern." Between north of Water Street and Spring Lane: house and garden of Deacon Thomas Oliver. Spring Lane: the early "Spring-gate," leading to the public spring and watering place.

All the structures of the Colony period which we have mentioned, in this Cornhill link, dwellings, shops, taverns, the Town-House, the Meetinghouse, disappeared in the second decade of the Province period, wiped out by the "Great Fire of 1711," the eighth disastrous visitation by fire that the town had suffered in its short history. Starting early on an October evening near the Meetinghouse, in the backyard of a tenement on a court, among a heap of oakum and combustible rubbish which a wretched old drunken oakum-picker had been overhauling with a light, it swept on a high wind both sides of Cornhill; and also spread over all the upper part of King Street, and through Pudding Lane — Devonshire Street — between Water Street and Spring Lane. Increase Mather found the cause of it in the wrath of God at the profanation of the Sabbath by the generality. "Has not God's Holy Day been Prophaned in New England? Have not

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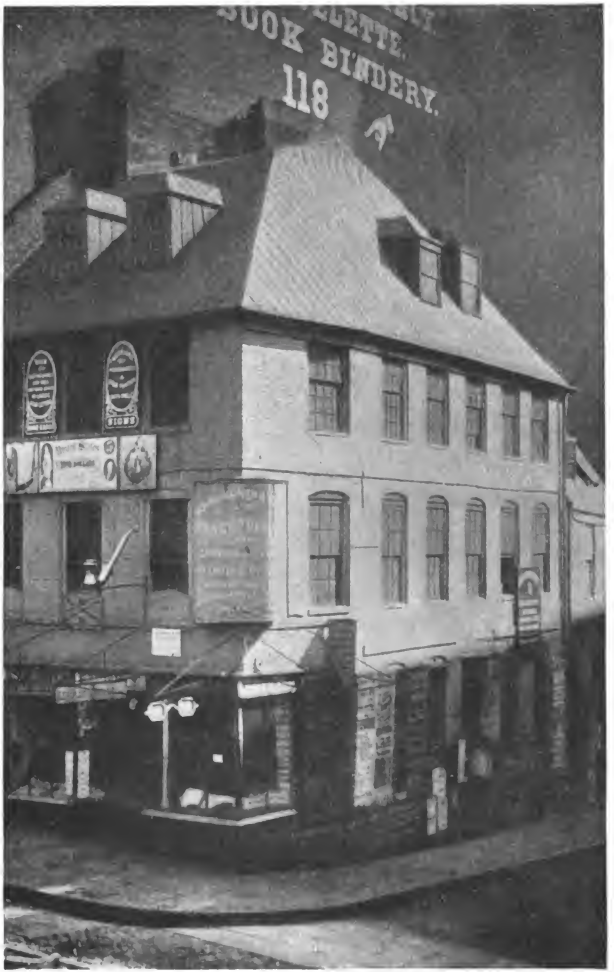

CORNER WASHINGTON AND WATER STREETS, WHERE THE JOURNAL BUILDING NOW STANDS

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Burdens been carried through the streets on the Sabbath Day? Have not Bakers, Carpenters, and other Tradesmen been employed in Servile Works on the Sabbath Day?" he queried in his sermon, "Burnings Bewayled," the Sunday after. The town and the selectmen however, instead of buttressing the Sunday laws more practically stiffened the building regulations. Accordingly a better Cornhill arose. The Meetinghouse was rebuilt in brick instead of wood; so were the Town and State House (to be burned again in 1747, and rebuilt in 1748 as we see it, practically, today); and so were the best of the houses. The "Old Corner Bookstore" of after years is supposed to have been the first of these best houses erected.

In the Colonial Marlborough link, with the Atherton Haugh lot marking the bound on the west side, we have, at the outset, the lot of Governor Winthrop extending from Spring Lane to Milk Street as the east side bound; and above these, on either side, the houses and gardens of notables and artisans comfortably intermingled. In course of time the modest mansion of the first governor of the Colony arose on his lot (his second home, the first one having been on King-State Street), and some four decades later, on the opposite side of the way, the far grander mansion which became the official dwelling of the royal governors of the Province; the two, in marked contrast, giving a special distinction to this part of the link, which might well have been termed "Governor's Row."

The Winthrop mansion became the South Church parsonage with the erection of the first South Meetinghouse on the "Governor's Green" at its side, in 1669. Here the Rev. Thomas Prince, among its most distinguished occupants, wrote his "Annals"; and it was from his library, bequeathed by him to the church, and stored in the "steeple chamber" of the present Old South at the time of the Revolution, that the Bradford manuscript history of Plymouth Colony was taken during the Siege, when the meetinghouse was used as a riding school for Burgoyne's troopers, to be found a century after in England and graciously restored to the State. The old mansion remained, a treasured landmark, till the British soldiers pulled it down in the winter of the Siege for firewood.

On the west side, at first, as recorded in the Town Book of Possessions, we have, next above the Atherton Haugh corner: the house and garden of Francis Lyle, or Lysle, a barber-surgeon, skilful in his trade; and next above Lysle: the house and garden of Thomas Millard, which later became the Province House estate. Millard died in 1669 and his home lot, encumbered, passed to Colonel Samuel Shrimpton, then the largest landholder in the town; and Shrimpton sold it to Colonel Peter Sergeant who built the mansion that became the Province House. Colonel Sergeant was an opulent London merchant who came to Boston in 1667, and from that time till his death in 1714

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THE BEGINNING OF WASHINGTON STREET. THE BUILDING IN THE FOREGROUND WAS REMOVED WHEN WASHINGTON STREET WAS CARRIED THROUGH TO ADAMS SQUARE

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was a man of consequence in the town. He bought this ample lot in 1676, then measuring eighty-six feet on the thoroughfare, nearly opposite the head of Milk Street, two hundred and sixty feet northerly, seventy-seven westerly, and two hundred and sixty-six southerly, for the paltry sum of £350 — contrast this with the values of today!— and forty years later, in 1715, the Province acquired from his heirs the whole vastly improved estate, with the mansion-house then the most remarkable in town, for £2300. As the Province House, it became the "central scene of the chief pageantries, gaieties, and formalities of the king's vice-regal court in Boston"; and Hawthorne has immortalized it in his fanciful "Legends." The present Province Court and Province Street were originally ways to the stables and rear grounds of the mansion when it became the Province House. After the Revolution it became the Government House and as such was the place of the sittings of the Governor and council for a while. Then, given over to commercial uses, it fell in the social scale. At length it was utilized for negro minstrelsy, first, in 1852, as "Ordway Hall" under the management of John P. Ordway, who in mature life became a local physician of note, and afterward, as "Morris Brothers, Pell, and Trowbridge's Opera House" of pleasant memories. Finally it was swept away, all but its walls, by a fire in 1864.

Continuing on this side, we have, according to the Book of Possessions, next above the Millard lot: the house and garden of Thomas Grubb, leather dresser. Next above Grubb, about on the line of the present Bromfield Street: the larger estate of William Aspinwall, notary public, and "recorder" after his return from banishment, he being one of those banished as an adherent of Mistress Anne Hutchinson. Subsequently, Edward Rawson, the Colonial secretary, acquired a part of the Aspinwall lot, and his name was given to the present Bromfield Street as "Rawson's Lane." It took on the name of Bromfield from Edward Bromfield a leading merchant of the Province period, after his death, in 1734, in his eighty-sixth year. Mr. Bromfield had long been a resident on the lane, his mansion standing on the south side, the site afterward occupied by the "Indian Queen Tavern," and its successor, the "Bromfield House."

Again on the east side we have first on the upper corner of Milk Street: Robert Reynolds, shoemaker. It was at the easterly end of this lot that stood the tenement which Josiah Franklin occupied at his first coming with his family about 1685, and was the eminent Benjamin's birthplace. Later, dating from about 1673, a little south of the present *Transcript* building: the "Blue Bell and Indian Queen Tavern," built on both sides of a narrow passage here cut through to Hawley Street. This was a famous inn through a long day extending into the nineteenth century. In early stage-coach times it was the regular stopping place of various long-distance lines. About 1820

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THE EAST SIDE OF WASHINGTON STREET, LOOKING SOUTH FROM MILK STREET IN 1856

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the ancient tavern was succeeded by the "Washington Coffee House," which in the forties was made the terminus of the daily Dorchester stages. The coffee house in turn disappeared in the fifties and its site was occupied by Messrs. Macullar, Williams & Company.

West side again, the earlier occupants between Bromfield and Winter Streets: Ephraim Pope, Edmund Dennis, Edward Jacklin, glazier, after him, in 1646, Nicholas Busbie, worsted weaver, William

SAVING THE OLD SOUTH CHURCH IN THE GREAT FIRE OF 1872

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THE PROVINCE HOUSE, ON THE WEST SIDE OF WASHINGTON STREET, PRESENT SITE OF PROVINCE COURT

Townsend, and Richard Parker's widow, all with houses and gardens. In the late eighteenth century, nearly opposite the present Franklin Street head: the "Rising Sun" tavern, from which early in the nineteenth century evolved the Marlboro Hotel which remained long a landmark.

The inconvenience of carrying on the lectures of Harvard Medical School in Cambridge soon brought about the removal of the School to Boston. In 1810 the Corporation and Overseers, at the request of Drs. Warren and Dexter, who lived in Boston, and against the protest of Dr. Waterhouse, who lived in Cambridge, voted that the lectures in

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anatomy and in surgery and in chemistry be delivered in Boston. Accordingly a theatre with other rooms was provided by Dr. Warren at 49 Marlborough Street (now 400 Washington Street) in Boston, in the same building with the hall and library of the Massachusetts Medical Society, and hither the instruction of the School was removed,

The Colonial Newbury link was similarly marked at first by houses and gardens with a few shops. In the Province period it became a favorite place for taverns. Earliest of these was the "Lamb Tavern," which stood where is now the Adams House. It was built about 1740, and displayed a large swing sign embellished with a painted white lamb. It was made the starting point of the stage-coaches of the first Boston and Providence line which began operations in 1767. A little above, nearly opposite the head of Hayward Place, was the "White Horse," with its sign of a white charger. Above, on the opposite side: the "Liberty Tavern," close by the "Liberty Tree," where is now Brigham's. Below the "Lamb," where is now Keith's "Bijou" annex; the "Grand Turk," of later date, afterward the "Lion," and still later the "Red Lion," which flourished till the eighteen thirties when it was transformed into a theatre.

The mixture of Colonial houses, mansions, and shops bordering both sides marked the Marlborough link through the eighteenth century and into the nineteenth. The first Boston Directories,— 1789 and 1796,— listed here merchants, general shopkeepers, tailors, leather breeches makers, apothecaries, booksellers and stationers, bookbinders, leather dressers, brass founders, saddlers, pewterers,

EAST SIDE OF WASHINGTON STREET IN 1860, FROM MACULLAR PARKER & COMPANY BUILDING TO SUMMER STREET

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WASHINGTON STREET, FROM SCHOOL TO STATE STREETS, IN 1850, SHOWING OLD CORNER BOOKSTORE AT LEFT

crockery ware dealers, hardware dealers, goldsmiths and jewellers, watch makers, upholsterers and lace manufacturers, mantua makers, milliners, hair dressers, brush manufacturers, paper stainers, painters and glaziers, masons, housewrights, blacksmiths, cordwainers, grocers, bakers, wine stores, physicians, dentists, brokers, school mistresses. Among the merchants are found such well-known names as John and Thomas Amory, Samuel and Stephen Salisbury, Benjamin Vincent. Among the booksellers: John Boyle, Joseph Nancrede, William Spotswood, David West. Physicians: Dr. John Homans, and Dr. Alexander Abercrombie Peters. Ebenezer Hancock, brother of John, appears as "keeper of powder house." Among the residents: Benjamin Hitchborn; Capt. Eleazer Johnson, Amasa Penneman, and Abiel Winship, merchants; John B. Sohier; Caleb Hopkins, "gentleman"; and Charles Bulfinch, the architect.

In 1800 corner estates were thus valued, as Mr. Walter Kendall Watkins has quoted: South corner of School Street — fifteen hundred and twelve square feet and a two-story wooden house, seven hundred and twenty square feet, $4000; South corner of Bromfield Street — twenty-seven hundred square feet, a brick house of two stories, twelve hundred square feet, all at $2500; north corner of Winter Street — a brick building of three stories and a wooden building, occupying a lot of forty-nine hundred square feet, $4000; south corner of Winter Street — a two-story brick building seven hundred and eighty square feet, land nine hundred square feet, $2000 with the land; south corner

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of Summer Street — fifty-nine hundred and forty square feet with a wood and chaise house four hundred and fifty square feet on Summer Street, $5000.

When in 1824 the Colonial names were finally dropped, and the whole thoroughfare took on the name of Washington, the residences had practically disappeared from this link and it had become distinctively a shopping quarter. Its aspect in the middle of the nineteenth century is faithfully depicted in the " Panoramic Views " which we reproduce from " Gleason's Pictorial " of 1853. Here, thanks to the honest if not artistic drawing of the delineator, we may readily read the signs of all the establishments on either side of the way. Picturesquely breaking the line of buildings just above Bromfield Street observe the archway at the side of the Marlboro House. This led to a paved court in which was the Marlboro Chapel at that time occupied by the Lowell Institute. The Chapel had been built originally from an L at the rear of the hotel, in the thirties, for the " First Free Congregational Church "; and after its abandonment for church uses it became the rendezvous of the various ultra organizations which

WASHINGTON STREET AFTER THE GREAT FIRE OF 1872, SHOWING MACULLAR PARKER & COMPANY BUILDING AT THE RIGHT

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THE ENTRANCE TO THE BOSTON THEATRE IN 1856

flourished in Boston in the thirties and forties — the "lean hungry savage anti-everything" association, as was Dr. Holmes's phrase. The Lowell Institute first occupied it in 1846, when it was renovated, and here the Lowell Institute Lectures were regularly given till 1879, when the Chapel disappeared. And here was the Lowell Institute's free drawing-school from the life, established in 1850, and conducted with rare genius by William Hollingsworth through its whole career of more than a quarter of a century. On the east side, above the opening of Franklin Street, in the establishment of "G. W. Warren & Co., Importers, Jobbers, and Retailers," we have the forerunner of the great dry goods "emporiums" of the modern day. This site in the next decade was occupied by Macullar, Williams & Parker.

In the decade of 1860-70 marked changes were effected in the architectural appearance of the link, and its valuation increased, with the erection of larger, loftier, and more attractive buildings of modern design, some of granite, some of iron, one of marble front, in place of most of the plain old ones. Then the "Great Fire of 1872," making Washington Street its west bound, swept off all on the east side from Summer to Milk Street, leaving only a broken front wall here and there standing in the midst of huge heaps of ruins. The great white marble facade of the Macullar, Williams & Parker building alone withstood the fury of the flames, and remained a monument of the devastation here till its removal for the widening of this link of the thoroughfare. The spread of the fire below Milk Street was checked by the blowing

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THE ADAMS HOUSE IN 1856

up of the old building that had been long occupied by Messrs. Currier & Trott on the south corner. The Old South Meetinghouse, while saved, suffered blown-out windows and other slight hurts, from the effect of the explosion across the way.

An exhibition of generosity and thoughtfulness on the part of the hundreds of employees of Macullar, Williams & Parker was a noteworthy incident of the disaster, among many, illustrating the fine temper of the community, as well as the cordiality of the relations existing between employer and employed in this house. The relation is that of the *Daily Advertiser* of November 14: "It is the custom of large tailoring establishments, and among them that of Macullar, Williams & Parker, to make out their payrolls on Saturdays and pay their employees on Mondays. Since the fire it was uniformly agreed among the girls who were employed by this firm, partly in consideration of past liberality toward them on the part of their employers, to decline to accept their wages for last week's work, thinking that the sum in the aggregate might be acceptable in consideration of their heavy losses. On the other hand, the members of the firm, solicitous for the welfare of those whose losses might be small but sufferings great, told Miss Jennie Collins [the noble-hearted retired workwoman

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A SECTION OF WASHINGTON STREET, BETWEEN WATER AND STATE STREETS, IN 1850

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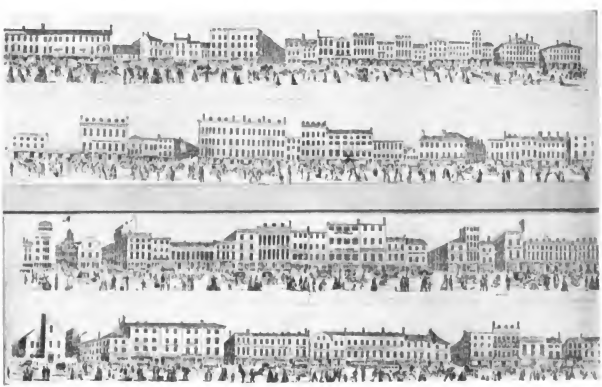
then maintaining the helpful institution of her own founding — her "Boffin's Bower," for working girls] to send to them any workgirls, and particularly their own, who might be in need, and they would provide for them. This statement is made to show the good feeling existing between employers and employed, and to correct a possible misconception of the case as stated in an afternoon paper."

The burned off side was speedily rebuilt finer, more substantial, and safer than before.

MACULLAR, PARKER & COMPANY.

The house of Macullar, Parker & Company was founded in 1848 by Addison Macullar, who opened in the city of Worcester in that year a small store (at a rental of $250) for the sale of ready-made clothing at retail, under the style of A. Macullar & Company.

In 1852 George B. Williams, who had formerly been a fellow clerk with Mr. Macullar, became associated with him in the business, and the style of the firm was thereupon changed to Macullar, Williams & Company. In 1852 the firm opened a house in Boston for the manufacture and sale of clothing at wholesale. The store occupied at that time was Nos. 35 and 37 Ann, the present North, Street. In 1854 they moved to Milk Street, occupying the building then No. 47.



THE EAST AND WEST SIDES OF WASHINGTON STREET, FROM MILK TO SUMMER STREETS, IN 1852

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RUINS OF THE MACULLAR PARKER & COMPANY BUILDING AFTER THE GREAT FIRE OF 1872

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WASHINGTON STREET, LOOKING SOUTH FROM SCHOOL STREET, IN 1910

In November, 1857, during the great financial panic of that period, they engaged temporarily the old Washington Coffee House building on Washington Street for the purpose of disposing of their surplus stock of clothing at retail. This was the first stock of clothing of any extent that had ever been opened on Washington Street; and the immediate and large business which was developed induced the firm to give up the wholesale business, and to settle permanently on Washington Street and cater exclusively to the best class of retail trade.

In 1860, the old quarters having become insufficient, a removal was made to No. 192 Washington Street, the store which had previously been occupied by George W. Warren & Company for the retail dry goods business. At this time the style of the firm was changed to Macullar, Williams & Parker, which remained unaltered for nineteen years, Mr. Charles W. Parker who had been associated with the business from its commencement as boy, bookkeeper and salesman, being admitted to the firm and becoming the managing partner.

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JOY'S BUILDING, WASHINGTON STREET, NEAR COURT STREET, IN 1860

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In 1864, this store also having become too small for their growing business, another removal was made to the building on the adjoining premises, which had been erected for the firm by the trustees of the Sears Estate. This was the edifice which was destroyed, with most of its contents, in the Great Fire of November 9, 1872. The present building was rebuilt upon substantially the same plan as the one destroyed, but with some modifications and improvements.

In 1884 the adjoining building, No. 398, formerly 192, becoming vacant by the retirement from business of Palmers & Batchelders, was annexed to the main building and occupied by the custom tailoring department for which, with the new department for the sale of Stetson Hats, it is occupied at the present time.

The departments of the business are Mens', Youths', Boys' and Juvenile clothing at retail. Mens' and Boys' Furnishing Goods, Custom Tailoring for Men and Women, Stetson Hats, Wholesale Woolens and Tailors' Trimmings.

The upper stories of both buildings are used for the cutting and manufacturing of clothing and for the shrinking of fabrics by the London Process.

WASHINGTON STREET FROM SUMMER STREET IN 1870

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AVON PLACE, NOW AVON STREET, IN 1856.

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C. B. WEBSTER & COMPANY, PRINTERS, BOSTON

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